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General and complete disarmament: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach herewith the comments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, dated 17 January 2017, on the necessity of bringing to justice those found responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 98 (n), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the necessity of bringing to justice those found responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria

The use of chemical weapons in Syria, as confirmed in the reports of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, is a blatant violation of international law, and all found responsible for these crimes should be brought to justice.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine considers the introduction of targeted sanctions by the United States of America in connection with the use of chemical weapons in Syria to be an adequate tool in this context.

Against the background of increasing challenges and threats to international peace and security, Ukraine continues to attach an essential priority to the strengthening of international regimes of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the prohibition of certain types of such weapons. We consistently advocate strict adherence to the provisions of key international instruments in this field to which Ukraine is a State party, including the 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.

Being a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Ukraine supports the need for the Council to introduce further restrictive measures under the provisions of Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in response to the violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).